

4.6 EMERGENCY SERVICES

This section discusses Fremont police and fire services that serve the project area and how they would be impacted by the project. Information for this section was obtained from the Fremont General Plan and correspondence with the Fremont Police and Fire Departments.

For the purposes of this analysis, Scenario 1 (the construction of up to 500 single-family homes) and Scenario 2 (the construction of up to 448 single-family homes and 72 apartments) were considered to have the same level of impact to emergency services, as the physical expanse of project construction activities under both options would be identical.

Incorporation of the project applicant's new mitigation measure, eliminating the borrow of 300,000 cubic yards of soil from the area southwest of Ardenwood Boulevard as described in **Chapter 3, Project Description**, has not resulted in any changes to this section.

4.6.1 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Police Services¹

Police services in Fremont are provided by the Fremont Police Department (FPD) located at 2000 Stevenson Boulevard in central Fremont. All police officers are dispatched from this location, which is located approximately 5 miles east from the project area. The FPD does not have any other stations, and no new stations are planned. The FPD has three patrol zones (i.e., Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3). The project area is located at the northwest corner of the FPD's Zone 2, which covers portions of northern Fremont. This area is patrolled by at least three to four officers at any given time.

¹ The Fremont General Plan includes safety planning strategies towards effectively responding to fires, medical emergencies, and hazardous material spills, of which, the Fremont Fire Department (FFD) is defined as the primary response agency. Because the General Plan does not include safety planning strategies related to the Fremont's police force, the majority of the Fremont Police Department (FPD) information was obtained through personal communication with Captain Robert Nelson of the FPD (June 9-23, 2008).

The FPD has a total of 182 sworn officers with an average of 85 to 90 of those officers assigned to patrol the City at a time. The department is also staffed with 104 un-sworn employees and 75 volunteer members that support the department. The current service ratio of officers to citizens is approximately 0.95 officers per 1,000 residents. The FPD has implemented a Service and Safety staffing measure, which prioritizes responses to service calls based on a given hour's available staff. The Service and Safety measure allows the FPD to operate with a minimum daily staffing level of 29 officers. This staffing model prioritizes calls for services and provides timely emergency services to all areas within the City. In addition, overlapping shifts allow temporary periods of increased staffing.

Average response times in Fremont for priority one calls, the highest level of priority, is 9:10 minutes, while priority two and three calls average 11:65 and 17:30 minutes, respectively. The FPD has been able to adequately serve priority one service calls with current staffing levels by reducing responses to priority two and three calls.

Fire and Emergency Services^{2,3}

The Fremont Fire Department (FFD) provides emergency fire suppression, fire prevention, hazardous materials response, technical rescue, and emergency medical services to Fremont and the project area.

Service is delivered from 13 fire companies strategically located at 11 fire stations. Fire Station 10, located at 5001 Deep Creek Road, is the closest fire station to the project area, approximately 0.5 mile to the east of the area. Fire Station 10 is staffed with one Fire Company (three firefighters) and is equipped with a fire engine, a patrol car and a utility vehicle for different types of calls.

Fremont has adopted a Fire Department Standard of Cover (SOC) which establishes a system response time goal measured from the time a 911 call is received at fire dispatch up to the arrival at the scene. The total system response time goal is 6 minutes and 40 seconds for 90 percent calls, which includes ring time and call processing at dispatch, fire station 'turnout' time and travel time. The response

² City of Fremont Fire Department. Available at: <<http://www.ci.fremont.ca.us/Fire>>. Accessed June 6, 2008.

³ Current FFD Station equipment, certifications, staffing levels, and response time information was provided through personal communications with Deputy Fire Marshall, Amiel Thurston of the FFD, on June 26, 2008.

time to the Ardenwood District (project area) based on statistics from 2006 is 6 minutes 30 seconds 65 percent of the time, with a median response time of 5 minutes 8 seconds.

The number of fire companies responding to an incident varies depending on the nature of the call. Emergency medical responses typically employ one fire company with a minimum of three personnel. The minimum staffing for a structure fire is 5 fire companies, two Battalion Chiefs and a minimum of 17 personnel. Units from Station 8, located at 35659 Fremont Boulevard, and Station 6, located at 4355 Central Avenue, would likely provide secondary response to the project area. Station 8 and Station 6 are located approximately 2 and 3 miles, respectively, east of the project area.

The FFD has a Special Operation Task Force trained to mitigate hazardous materials incidents and technical rescue calls. A minimum of three fire companies (nine firefighters) are assigned to the task force. The task force is deployed from Fire Station 7 located at 43600 South Grimmer Boulevard, Fire Station 8 at 35659 Fremont Boulevard and Fire Station 10⁴ located 0.5 mile from the project area.

Presently, the current level of equipment, staffing and facilities and response times are not to the level recommended by the SOC on a Citywide basis. The SOC envisions another staffed company at the central Fremont station and moving a ladder truck from its current location at Fire Station 1 (4200 Mowry) to Fire Station 6 closer to the project area. At this time, however, current Citywide staffing and service demand prohibits the recommended move of the ladder truck, resulting in longer than desirable response times for a ladder truck to the project area.

However, as mentioned previously, Fire Station 10 is located in close proximity to the project site, only 0.5 miles to the east.

4.6.2 REGULATORY SETTING

Fremont General Plan

Chapter 10, Health and Safety Goals, of the Fremont General Plan establishes goals, policies and corresponding initiatives for addressing the hazards and conditions that potentially threaten the community's health and safety. As previously noted, the General Plan does not include goals, policies and corresponding initiatives related to Fremont's police force. The "emergencies" these policies refer to are only related

⁴ Personnel at Fire Station 10 comprise a fire company with the dual role of serving on the Special Operations Task Force.

to fires, medical emergencies, and hazardous material spills, of which, the FFD is defined as the primary response agency. The emergency service goals, policies and objectives, related to the project are listed below.

Chapter 10, Health and Safety Goals

Health and Safety (HS) Goal 4: Minimum feasible risk to residents and property due to fire hazards

Policy HS 4.1.2: Require adequate access and clearance for fire equipment, fire suppression personnel, and evacuation.

Policy HS 4.1.3: Require fire mitigation measures in developments proposed outside a 5 minute 30 second response time area. Limit development in those areas where, despite fire mitigation measures, an acceptable level of protection is considered unattainable.

Health and Safety (HS) Goal 5: A 5 minute 30 second response time for emergencies in areas below the top of the hill.

Objective HS 5.1: Maximum feasible achievement of a five minute 30 second response time for areas where response time is identified as achievable.

Policy HS 5.1.2: Consider improvements in services and facilities to provide maximum feasible achievement of a 5 minute 30 second response within the City.

Project Consistency

As discussed in **Section 4.6.1, Existing Conditions**, the FFD is achieving its current response time goals 65 percent of the time. Policy 4.1.3 of the General Plan requires fire mitigation measures to be included in projects outside the response time goals. The project will incorporate appropriate fire suppression and mitigation, as described in **Section 4.6.3, Impacts and Mitigation Measures**. Therefore, the project is consistent with the general plan policies.

Prior to project construction, the FFD must approve the project's fire suppression system and overall design to provide adequate access and maneuvering room for the fire and emergency apparatuses. Therefore, as required by HS 4.1.2, all roadways and structures would meet the FFD's requirements for fire safety and access, and would be built in compliance with the 2007 California Fire Code, all local amendments and the Fremont Municipal Code.

4.6.3 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Significance Criteria

Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines identifies environmental issues to be considered when determining whether a project could have significant effects on the environment. The project would have significant emergency service impacts if implementing the project would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

- Police protection
- Fire protection (including medical emergency services)

Project Impacts

Impact ES-1: The increased number of residents generated by the project would increase the number of calls for police services; however the Service and Safety staffing measure deployed by the Fremont Police Department (FPD) will ensure adequate response times for police services to the project area. (Less than Significant)

The project would develop housing that would generate additional calls for police services. The current service delivery model and strategic deployment of personnel, Service and Safety staffing measure, would ensure adequate police service from the FPD to the project area, under either Scenario 1 or Scenario 2. The Service and Safety staffing measure, which prioritizes responses to service calls based on a given hour's available staff allows the FPD to operate with a minimum daily staffing level of 29 officers while providing adequate service to priority calls. This staffing model prioritizes calls for services and provides timely emergency services to all areas within the City, including the project area. The FPD may experience an increased call volume for emergency responses that would be generated by the population on the project area; however adherence to the Service and Safety staffing measure would ensure that the increased population would not negatively impact current levels of service beyond existing response time services. Therefore, the FPD staff, equipment, and facilities meet response time goals and would continue to provide adequate police services to the project area and surrounding communities with project implementation. CEQA considers the construction of new government

facilities and any physical impacts related to said construction. Implementation of the project would not require the construction of any additional FPD facilities, the construction of which could result in environmental impacts. The project would therefore have a less-than-significant impact associated with police services.

Additionally, to ensure protective measures the project will be required to be designed per Crime Prevention through Environmental Design standards as a condition of project approval.

Impact ES-2: The development of new residential uses by the project would increase calls for fire department services and potentially increase fire department response times. (Less than Significant)

The increased population generated by the project would increase demands for fire department services, facilities and equipment. As discussed previously, the FFD is currently meeting the department's 6 minute 40 second goal 65 percent of the time. The SOC envisions an additional fire company with additional staffing, equipment and ongoing maintenance, which would allow the move of a ladder truck to Fire Station 6 increasing the concentration of resources near Ardenwood. Fremont does not, however, presently have the ability to fund the ongoing operation of an additional fire company.

Fremont has adopted local amendments that all new construction (including residential, commercial, and industrial) include a fire sprinkler system or an automatic fire extinguishing system consistent with the CBC and the CFC. The project will also be required to pay fire impact fees that will provide funding to help the FFD plan facility and staff expansion to further serve the City and project area. Adherence with local requirements for fire suppression (i.e., fire sprinkler system or an automatic fire extinguishing system) and payment of impact fees will reduce the severity of service calls beyond existing conditions. CEQA considers the construction of new government facilities and any physical impacts related to said construction. Implementation of the project, under either Scenario 1 or Scenario 2, would not require the construction of any additional FFD facilities, the construction of which could result in environmental impacts. The project would therefore have a less-than-significant impact associated with fire services.